

# DSMC Professor Speaks at Vietnam Wall

**D**SMC professor and former North Vietnam prisoner of war, retired Air Force Col. Norman McDaniel, was one of the honored guest speakers at the Vietnam Memorial on Monday, Nov. 11. McDaniel's remarks

were carried live across the nation by CNN News and several leading networks, reaching an audience numbering in the millions. His words serve to remind us that freedom, indeed, is not free.

*On this special day as we celebrate and recognize the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who have served our nation, let us never forget that it is because of their sacrifices and the grace of God that we, today, enjoy life, freedom, and the pursuit of happiness.*

*There is a wise and true saying that "those who forget the past are condemned to repeat it." Thus, we must not forget their sacrifices.*

*Today, Nov. 11, 1996, in America and Vietnam, is a very different day than Nov. 11, 1964, 1966, and 1968. In the Bible, the book of Ecclesiastes says, "To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under Heaven: a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down and a time to build up; a time of war, and a time of peace." With reference to Vietnam, now is a time to heal, a time to build up, a time for peace.*

*Those of us who went in harm's way to serve our nation and to help our friends, do not want our sacrifices to be forgotten or in vain.*

*Some of us endured, and still endure, mental and physical trauma.*

*Some of us endured long, painful, torturous years as prisoners of war.*

*And, some of those who served paid the ultimate price—their very lives—as represented by the thousands of names on these walls.*

*If those who gave their lives could speak, I believe their words would be similar to those penned by John McCrae when he wrote "In Flanders Fields." I can hear them saying, "To you, from failing hands, we throw the torch. Be yours, to hold it high. If you break faith with us who die, we shall not sleep, though life goes on, in Vietnam." Certainly, we want them to rest in peace.*

*So, let us make today and tomorrow a time of peace, a time of healing, and a time of continual rededication to the principles that made and keep our great nation free and strong. We owe no less to the men and women we honor here today.*



*Let each of us strive to make our life meaningful by being thankful for each day that we live, and by truly fulfilling the purpose for which we were created. God bless you, and God bless America!*

**Editor's Note:** McDaniel is a professor of Systems Acquisition Management, Principles of Program Management Department, Faculty Division, DSMC. He was held as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam for nearly seven years.